

Group III, claims 11-16, drawn to a method of use, classified in class 435, subclass 4+.

Applicants traverse this restriction and withdrawal thereof with rejoinder of the claims is respectfully requested. The claims of Groups I-III all share a common feature of the selection of random SH3 domains having new or better affinities for their ligands. By using random manipulation of the six amino acid variable sequence of the RT-loop in the SH3 domain, SH3 domains having unnaturally high affinities to specific ligands which bind to any natural SH3 domain can be made.

The approach for generating improved SH3 domains is fundamentally different from the methods used previously. Previously, the new binding properties of the SH3 domains were based on mimicking the naturally occurring structures of the known cognate SH3 domains (see, for example, Lee et al. 1995, discussed on page 3 of the specification).

All of the claims share the common feature of the generation of new specific affinities between the SH3 domains and their ligands. Thus, while the claimed structures of the SH3 domains may be different the binding specificity for the ligand in question is the same.

Thus, the claims of the present invention all share the common feature of a utilizing a method of generating artificial SH3

domains with tailored binding properties to specific ligands, tailored SH3 domains and methods of use thereof, wherein the advantageous properties of the methods of use are the result of the specific binding of the artificial SH3 domain to its ligand. Because all of the claims share this common feature, it will not be an undue burden upon the Examiner to search and consider all the claims and rejoinder of the claims is respectfully requested.

However, should the Examiner choose to not rejoin the claims, Applicants elect, with traverse the Group I, claims 1-4, for examination on the merits. Applicants further reserve the right to pursue any non-elected subjected matter in one or more divisional applications.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact MaryAnne Armstrong, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 40,069) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

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required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17;
particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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